

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

ZOE ANN WARBERG SHAUB

May 9, 1960



Zoe Ann Warberg Shaub was born on March 1, 1934, in Twin Falls, one of two twins born to George and Ethel Warberg. Shaub and her sister were the second set of twins for the Warbergs, born only 21 months apart. Both of her parents were originally from Oregon, with her father's family moving to Twin Falls in 1905 to work in the coal storage and transfer business. Indeed, for many years the "Warberg Brothers" operated a coal storage and transfer business in Twin Falls. Shaub's mother was a speech, drama and English teacher for many years, first at Filer High School and later, in the early 1950s, at Twin Falls High School.

Shaub's journey into law began in an unusual way. While she was in high school, Shaub babysat for Graden Smith, a local attorney. One day, after Smith had picked up Shaub, he was lamenting that he had lost his secretary. Shaub responded that she knew how to type and was taking shorthand in school. With that, Smith hired Shaub as a legal secretary to work in his office after school and on Saturdays. When she was a senior, Shaub increased her work in Smith's law office to a half-day everyday. Then, after her graduation from Twin Falls High School in 1952, she went to work full-time in Smith's law office. That's when she decided to pursue a career in law. She seemed particularly well qualified for such a career, given that she was the 1952 Idaho State Champion of the American Legion's High School Oratorical Contest.

Being one of four children born relatively close together, Shaub knew that she had to do something "because my education was going to cost a lot." Her answer came in an unusual way. In 1952, the shy 5-foot-5-inch, blue-eyed, brunette schoolgirl entered the first ever Miss Twin Falls competition in order to win scholarship money for her education. To her amazement, she won the title and later competed, and then won the 1952 Miss Idaho competition. As Miss Idaho, Shaub went on to compete in the 1952 Miss America pageant where she was awarded a talent scholarship based on her three-minute talk on the need for qualified voters to "exercise your duty and privilege" (coached, of course, by her mother). The talk was so moving that, within hours after the news service shared the story of the unusual contest message with the nation, the chairman of both the Republican and Democratic parties had sent for copies. The pageant office mimeographed more copies, too, filling requests that poured in for weeks.

Shaub used the money she won at the local, state and national pageants to attend the College of Idaho in Caldwell (now Albertson College of Idaho) from 1952-54, where she majored in political science. The money Shaub won at the state level was earmarked to be used in Idaho. Therefore, after she had successfully used that money at the College of Idaho, Shaub transferred to Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, a school she had always wanted to attend given her family's connection to the place and institution (her parents met while attending Linfield). Shaub graduated from Linfield in 1956 with a degree in business. She then applied to two law schools

given their strong academic reputations: Stanford and Michigan. Shaub decided upon Stanford because it was in the West and she wanted to stay in the West.

In 1956, Shaub entered her first year at the Stanford University School of Law with a class of 300 students (nine of whom were women). Once the Miss America Pageant heard of Shaub's entrance into law school, they unexpectedly sent her another scholarship; much to Shaub's surprise and delight. When asked if she received lots of attention in law school given her participation in the Miss America contest, Shaub indicated that she received the most attention from her classmates based on her "awesome notes" that she took as a result of being a legal secretary for many years.

Each summer after law school, Shaub returned to Twin Falls and clerked in the Terry, Robertson & Daly firm. In 1959, Shaub was one of five women to graduate from Stanford law school. She immediately took and passed the California bar (in January 1960) and was considering staying in California until she received a plea to return to Twin Falls from her then brother-in-law, Bob Rayborn, who's law office was looking for help.

On May 9, 1960, Shaub was admitted as the thirtieth woman to practice law in Idaho. Immediately thereafter she joined the firm of Rayborn, Rayborn & Webb in Twin Falls and had a general practice. After just one year, Shaub decided to run for probate judge and in 1960 was successful in defeating the incumbent judge. At 26, Shaub was the youngest, female judge in the nation at the time. She served as probate judge for Twin Falls for four terms, from 1960 through her "retirement" from the bench to have her first child in 1967. During this time she "mostly" handled juvenile matters. Shaub recalls going to judicial conferences and palming around with Mary Durham Adams (No. 29 on this list), as she was the only other woman judge at the time.

In 1962, Shaub married Dr. Roy Shaub and, as Twin Falls attorney John Rosholt says, "broke a lot of hearts." Shaub had met Roy, an internal medicine doctor, in Sun Valley skiing. He appeared before her in court to testify at a sanity hearing shortly thereafter and that night, Shaub recalls, "he called and asked me out." Together they have three children and five grandchildren.

Shaub retired from the bench in 1967 to raise her three children. Never one to sit for long, Shaub got so involved in her children's activities that she ended up running the Snake River Swim Association in which they competed. Shaub has also remained active with the Miss America organization. For several years she served as legal representative to the Western states. Ever since her return to Idaho after law school, Shaub has worked with the Twin Falls Lions Club, recruiting Miss Twin Falls candidates and from 1997 to 2002 was the head of the Miss Magic Valley pageant.

Shaub has long been involved in the community, most recently helping to gather information about the Twin Falls centennial celebration, including putting together a comprehensive history book entitled "Gifts of Heritage." Shaub explains that she always intended to go back to the full-time practice of law after her children were grown, but by the time that happened her husband was nearing retirement and "things had changed so much" that she decided against it. Even so, throughout the time Shaub stayed home to raise her children, she handled a number of smaller matters for her friends out of her home.

Shaub lives in Twin Falls with her husband Roy and enjoys playing with her grandchildren.